



P Our Queenes moste excellent Maiestie, being credibly enformed that many vagaboundes, rogues, idle persons, and maisterlesse men, hauyng nothing to liue on, do dayly resort to the Cities of London and Westminster, and the Suburbes of the same, and also to the Borough of Southwarke, and other villages and Townes neare adioyning to the sayd Cities and Borough, and there are suffered to lyue very disorderly: by occasion whereof, many robberies, and felonies, and other horrible crimes and offences be committed and done, to the hygh displeasure of almyghtie God, and to the great hurt of her good and louyng Subiectes. The cheefe occasion whereof, seemeth to be the want of the good execution of the good Lawes and Statutes, made for the punishment of suche maisterlesse men, idle, and vagrant persons. Wherefore her Maiestie, myndyng with some seueritie presently to haue the sayd good Lawes and Statutes already provided agaynst suche persons, to be duly put in execution, hath thought good by this her proclamation, to notifie the same her hyghnes pleasure, to al her louyng Subiectes: and therfore dooth straitly charge and commaund, al persons that by the Lawes of this Realme may be taken for rogues or vagaboundes, and al idle persons, and maisterlesse men, not hauyng wherewith to lyue on, nor lyuyng by any lawfull labour or occupation, and beyng her naturall borne Subiectes, that they and euery of them, doo within two dayes next after the publishyng of this proclamation, departe and auorde them selues from the sayde Cities of London and Westminster, and Suburbes of the same, and from the Borough of Southwarke, and all other Townes and villages within seuen myles compasse of the sayde Cities and Borough, and from thence to repaire to the countreyes and places where they were borne, and there to tarry and abyde in some lawfull worke and exercise, as they ought to do, vpon the paynes and penalties limited and expresse in the Lawes and Statutes provided agaynst such offenders. And her Maiesties further pleasure and expresse commaundement is, that the Maior, Aldermen, and Recorder of the sayde Citie of London, and all Iustices of Peace within the Counties of Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, and Essex, and specially al those Iustices that be within the limittes aforesayde, that they and euery of them, as they wyl auorde her hyghnesse displeasure, do from tyme to tyme, as occasion shal serue, cause good watch to be set, and searche to be made, in al places where they shal thynke conuenient, for the apprehendyng, arrestyng, & takyng of al such idle vagrant persons, and maisterlesse men, and that they cause the same with al speede to be imprisoned, & duly punished, according to the tenor and effect of her Maiesties Lawes and Statutes in suche cases provided, without any tolleration or fauour whatsoever to be shewed vnto any of them. And her Maiestie dooth also specially charge and commaund the sayde Maior, Aldermen, and Recorder of London, and all Iustices of Peace, Bailiffes of Liberties and Fraunchises within the sayd Cities, Townes, and limittes, that they and euery of them, within the limittes of their iurisdictiones, doo from tyme to tyme cause good searche to be made, as wel in al common tablyng houses, Innes, Alehouses, and trypling houses, as also in al bowlyng Alieys, and other places where any gamyng or play is bled and frequented, and there to apprehende and take such suspected persons, beyng maisterlesse men, of euyl name & fame, not hauyng wherewithal to mainteyne their idle lyfe, and the same so apprehended and taken, to commit to prison, there to remayne, vntyl they shal receyue such punishment and correction, as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme is and shalbe due vnto them. And her highnesse is further pleased and contented, that the Maior of the sayde Citie of London, shal haue power and auctoritie from tyme to tyme, to proclaime and publishe this present proclamation in all places within the sayde Citie and Suburbes, so often as to hym shal seeme needefull and conuenient.

Given at her Maiesties honour of Dampston Court, the .xiiii. day of December. 1576. in the .xix. yeere of her hyghnesse raigne.

God saue the Queene.

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Cum priuilegio Regiz Maiestatis